WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A grill comprising:

a platen;

a temperature sensor disposed in thermal contact with said platen;

a heater box disposed on one side of said platen; and

a heater disposed in said heater box in a manner that said platen attains a substantially uniform temperature before said temperature sensor senses a set temperature, which ends a pre-heat mode or a recovery mode.

2. The grill of claim 1, wherein said heater is arranged to provide minimal and maximum heat to first and second portions, respectively, of said platen.

3. The grill of claim 2, wherein said first portion of said platen is in the vicinity of said temperature sensor and said second portion of said platen is outside said vicinity.

4. The grill of claim 1, wherein said heater is selected from the group that consists of: gas heater and electric heater.

5. The grill of claim 3, wherein said heater comprises a gas burner having a first group of ports disposed to provide said minimal heat and a second group of ports disposed to provide said maximal heat.

6. The grill of claim 5, wherein said second group has more ports than said first group.

7. The grill of claim 1, wherein said heater comprises a gas burner that has a surface in which an array of ports is disposed in column sequences that are separated by rows.

8. The grill of claim 7, wherein each of said column sequences includes a plurality of ports, and wherein each of said rows includes a plurality of said ports.

9. The grill of claim 8, wherein said column sequences and rows define first and second groups that are disposed inside said vicinity and outside said vicinity, respectively.

10. The grill of claim 9, wherein said first group has a smaller number of ports per row than said second group.

11. The grill of claim 1, wherein said temperature sensor is disposed in a shield and separated therefrom by an air gap.

12. The grill of claim 2, wherein said heater comprises an electrical heater having a first electrical element and a second electrical element disposed to provide said minimal heat and said maximal heat, respectively.

13. The grill of claim 12, wherein adjacent runs of said first electrical element have a larger spacing than adjacent runs of said second electrical element.

14. The grill of claim 13, wherein said temperature sensor is disposed in a shield and separated therefrom by an air gap.

15. A grill comprising:

a platen;

a plurality of heater boxes disposed on one side of said platen in an arrangement that provides a plurality heating zones for said platen; and

separate heaters disposed in said heater boxes, wherein said heater boxes are configured to have minimal heat migration therebetween so that said heating zones are capable of independent heating control for operation separately or in any combination thereof.

16. The grill of claim 15, wherein each of said heater boxes is separated from a neighboring heater box by an air gap.

17. The grill of claim 16, wherein each of said heater boxes comprises an insulation liner to minimize heat transfer to a neighboring heater box.

18. The grill of claim 15, wherein said heater comprises a gas burner.

19. The grill of claim 18, wherein said gas burner has a rectangular shape and a rectangular cross-section.

20. The grill of claim 19, wherein said surface is flat.

21. The grill of claim 18, wherein said gas burner has a surface in which an array of ports is disposed in column sequences that are separated by rows.

22. The grill of claim 21, wherein each of said column sequences includes a plurality of ports, and wherein each of said rows includes a plurality of said ports.

23. The grill of claim 15, wherein said heaters define separate ones of said zones, and wherein the heater disposed in a first one of said heater boxes is arranged to provide minimal and maximum heat to first and second portions,

respectively, of said platen in a first of one of said zones corresponding to said first heater box.

24. The grill of claim 23, further comprising a temperature sensor disposed in said first heater box, and wherein said first portion of said platen is in the vicinity of said temperature sensor and said second portion of said platen is outside said vicinity.

25. The grill of claim 23, wherein said heater is selected from the group that consists of: gas heater and electric heater.

26. The grill of claim 24, wherein said heater comprises a gas burner having a first group of ports disposed to provide said minimal heat and a second group of ports disposed to provide said maximal heat.

27. The grill of claim 26, wherein said second group has more ports than said first group.

28. The grill of claim 24, wherein said heater comprises a gas burner that has a surface in which an array of ports is disposed in column sequences that are separated by rows.

29. The grill of claim 28, wherein each of said column sequences includes a plurality of ports, and wherein each of said rows includes a plurality of said ports.

30. The grill of claim 29, wherein said column sequences and rows define first and second groups that are disposed inside said vicinity and outside said vicinity, respectively.

31. The grill of claim 30, wherein said first group has a smaller number of ports per row than said second group.

32. The grill of claim 15, wherein said temperature sensor is disposed in a shield and separated therefrom by an air gap.

33. The grill of claim 15, wherein said heater comprises an electrical heater having a first electrical element and a second electrical element disposed to provide said minimal heat and said maximal heat, respectively.

34. The grill of claim 33, wherein adjacent runs of said first electrical element have a larger spacing than adjacent runs of said second electrical element.

35. The grill of claim 33, wherein said temperature sensor is disposed in a shield and separated therefrom by an air gap.